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| 09/650,046      | 08/29/2000  | William T. Geddes Jr. | 3503-0101P          | 8374             |

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EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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2177

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/650,046

Applicant(s)

GEDDES JR. ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.5 & 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Dunworth et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,930,474).

Regarding claims 1, 52, 61, and 71, **Dunworth et al.** teaches a search method for a computer device, comprising:

- a). associating a user of the computer device with at least one of a plurality of beneficiary groups (i.e., a list of geographical areas: LA, NY, etc...) (col. 7, line 30 – col. 8, line 15); and
- b). providing an arrangement for searching for a provider based upon a search request input to the computer device, the provider being associated with a beneficiary group (i.e., geographic community, community of interest, or user preferred

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class of providers) associated with the user (col. 8, lines 22-48; col. 9, line 9 – col. 10, line 6).

Regarding claim 2, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the input search request includes a request to search for a provider of one of a good, service and information (col. 9, lines 55-67).

Regarding claims 3, 64-66, and 72, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches the steps of:

- a). receiving the input search request including a user-specified beneficiary group from the computer device of a user (col. 13, lines 20-34);
- b). searching for a provider, based upon the search arrangement and the received input search request including the user-specified beneficiary group, the search arrangement including a synergistic concentric circle arrangement (col. 14, lines 15-27); and
- c). outputting results of the search to the user (col. 15, lines 26-52; col. 16, lines 49-65).

Regarding claims 4, 23, 48, and 74, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the search arrangement includes an expandable synergistic concentric circle arrangement (col. 12, line 59 - col. 13, line 6).

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Regarding claims 5, 6, 24, 25, 49, 75, and 76, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches receiving information from the user for expanding at least one of the synergistic concentric circles of the synergistic expandable concentric circle arrangement (col. 13, line 20 – col. 14, line 13).

Regarding claims 7, 8, 16, 26, 32, 39, 50, 55, and 68, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the step of receiving includes receiving information prioritizing expansion of the synergistic concentric circles (col. 14, lines 1-13; 15-27).

Regarding claims 9, 27, 42, 51, 58, and 77, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches prompting the user at the computer device, to expand at least one of the synergistic concentric circles of the synergistic concentric circle arrangement (col. 15, lines 26-52).

Regarding claims 10, 28, and 78, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the step of prompting includes prompting the user to prioritize expansion of the synergistic concentric circles (col. 15, lines 26-52).

Regarding claims 11, 29, and 47, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein a beneficiary group associated with the user is assigned priority over another beneficiary group associated with the user (col. 8, lines 5-21).

Regarding claim 12, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the step of providing includes providing an arrangement for searching on the Internet (col. 6, lines 46-57; col. 7, lines 5-29).

Regarding claim 13, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the step of providing includes providing an arrangement for searching on the worldwide web (col. 11, lines 11-20).

Regarding claims 14 and 30, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the search arrangement includes a synergistic concentric circle arrangement, and concentric circles of the synergistic concentric circle arrangement are hierarchically ranked (col. 11, line 53 – col. 12, line 22).

Regarding claims 15 and 31, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches receiving information for expanding a search to a next hierarchically ranked synergistic concentric circle (col. 13, lines 15-19).

Regarding claims 17, 33, 40, 41, 56, 57, 69, and 70, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the search priorities include priorities for expanding within an associated beneficiary group or among plural associated beneficiary groups (col. 15, lines 26-40).

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Regarding claims 18, 34, 43, and 59, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein a synergistic concentric circle is geographically expandable (col. 13, lines 8-34).

Regarding claim 19, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein a synergistic concentric circle is expandable based priorities including geographic priorities (col. 13, lines 25-34).

Regarding claims 20 and 35, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the computer device includes one of a personal computer, personal digital assistant and wireless phone (col. 7, lines 36-42).

Regarding claim 21, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein a synergistic concentric circle is expandable based upon a redefined beneficiary group (col. 7, lines 42-47).

Regarding claim 22, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches search method for a computer device, comprising:

- a). receiving, from a computer device, a search request for a provider of a good, service or information and at least one beneficiary group (col. 7, lines 5-29);
- b). searching for the requested provider, associated with the at least one beneficiary group, based upon the received search request including at least one user-

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specified beneficiary group (col. 8, lines 22-48; col. 9, line 9 – col. 10, line 6; col. 13, lines 20-34); and

c). outputting results of the search to the computer device (col. 16, lines 49-65).

Regarding claim 36, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches a search system, comprising:

a). a database, adapted to store information associating a user with at least one beneficiary group and information associating a provider with at least one beneficiary group (i.e., geographic database 210 in Fig. 2A; col. 8, line 2 – col. 9, line 27); and

b). a controller, adapted to receive a search request from a computer device of a user, adapted to search the database based upon the search request and associated beneficiary group of the user, and adapted to eventually provide a search result to the user including a provider associated with the beneficiary group of the user (col. 10, line 59 – col. 11, line 10; col. 15, lines 26-40).

Regarding claims 37, 53, and 62 **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the search request includes a search for one of a good, service and information (col. 16, lines 49-65).



Regarding claims 38 and 54, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the database is searched in expandable synergistic concentric circles formed based upon the search request and associated beneficiary group of the user (col. 12, line 59 – col. 13, line 6).

Regarding claims 44 and 60, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein a concentric circle is expandable based upon a redefined beneficiary group (col. 12, line 53 – col. 13, line 19).

Regarding claim 45, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches computer search method, comprising:

- a). storing information for each of a plurality of users of computer devices and for each of a plurality of providers of at least one of goods, services and information, associating each user and each provider with at least one beneficiary group (col. 8, line 2 – col. 9, line 27);
- b). receiving a search request for at least one of a good, service and information from a computer device of a user (col. 7, lines 5-29);
- c). searching the stored information based upon the search request and the at least one beneficiary group associated with the user (col. 8, lines 22-48; col. 9, line 9 – col. 10, line 6; col. 13, lines 20-34); and
- d). providing a search result to the computer device of the user based upon the search (col. 16, lines 49-65).

Regarding claim 46, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches herein the step of providing includes providing the user with at least one provider of the requested good, service or information, associated with the beneficiary group of the user (col. 15, lines 33-45).

Regarding claim 63, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the controller is adapted to associate a provider with a user by searching the database (col. 14, lines 5-27; col.15, lines 26-45).

Regarding claim 67, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the database is further adapted to store a plurality of users, each associated with at least one beneficiary group (col. 8, line 2 – col. 9, line 27).

Regarding claim 73, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein a plurality of providers are associated with at least one beneficiary group (col. 9, lines 55-63).

Regarding claims 79, 82, 88, and 91, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the output results are displayed to the user (col. 16, lines 49-65; col. 10, lines 28-30).

Regarding claims 80, 83, 86, 89, and 92, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the display includes addresses of providers (col. 10, lines 1-6).

Regarding claims 81, 84, 87, 90, and 93, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the addresses include at least one of an Internet address and a physical location address (col. 10, lines 16-23).

Regarding claim 85, **Dunworth et al.** further teaches wherein the controller is further adapted to provide a displayed search result to the user for display on computer device of the user (col. 10, lines 1-6; col. 15, lines 33-45).

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Schwartz et al.** (US 2003/0061114 A1)

**Pirolli et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,272,507)

**Herz et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,754,938)

**Herz** (U.S. Patent 6,460,036)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (703) 305-3018. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

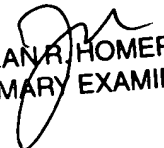
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Leslie Wong  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2177

lw  
September 21, 2003



JEAN R. HOMERE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER